

November 22, 1999

And now, as the Town embarks on an historic new path, we wish much success in advance to its first Mayor, to members of its new Town Council, and to the scores of local residents whose vigorous discourse has made Weymouth a model of participatory democracy—over the last 375 years, and into the next millennium.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF
WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER SHULER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 22, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House that on November 28, 1999, my grandson, William Christopher Shuler, will celebrate his first birthday. I have enjoyed myself immensely over the last few months watching little William grow, and my wife Cynthia and I are looking forward to many more birthdays as we head into the new millennium.

We often hear our colleagues on the floor honoring those constituents who are celebrating their 100th birthdays, and as we listen, we are able to reflect on the wonderment of the 20th century and appreciate just how much the world has changed over their lifespan. Those people born in 1899 have witnessed first-hand the advent of modern aviation, from the first flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk to the landing on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility. They have seen the dawn of a world connected by the Internet, where e-mail and video replace ink and paper for communication. They have seen a technological revolution unfold before their eyes. They have also watched our brave young men and women travel to foreign lands to fight for freedom and democracy in five separate wars.

Now imagine what a one-year old today will experience as he heads into the 21st century. It's hard to fathom what the world will look like fifty, seventy-five, or one hundred years from now. Yet, little William sits on that exciting threshold—filled with great opportunity and hope.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in this celebration, and to always keep our young ones in mind as we continue in Congress to make this nation a better place for them all.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 22, 1999

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the importance of addressing the multi-faceted issues involved in providing access to health care for all Americans. In a country of unsurpassed material resources, healthcare should be a right, not a privilege; yet, the number of uninsured and disenfranchised populations that have to limit their exposure even to basic primary health services, has reached staggering proportions.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

If we are to successfully turn-around this untenable situation, we must develop comprehensive, coordinated, targeted approaches that proactively address systemic health-related issues in our communities.

I have recently become aware of the efforts of the Carondelet Health System (CHS) to develop a "Community Outreach Network" that would serve as a model for universal access to health services in multi-cultural communities. CHS, comprised of more than 50 hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home care agencies and physician groups across the United States, has a strong presence in the State of Missouri with its national headquarters located in St. Louis, and a number of institutions in my own district. Since its inception, CHS has focused on its commitment to the uninsured, disenfranchised and medically underserved members of the community. One-third of the population reached by CHS members is Hispanic, and there are a growing number of ethnic minorities who come to CHS institutions to find a home in an increasingly complex health care delivery system.

Given the multicultural community that CHS serves, CHS has launched a national collaborative initiative to increase community health access; provide a comprehensive continuum of care for the uninsured; and focus on minority health status improvements. Breaking down barriers to health care by enrolling uninsured children and families in available programs; coordination and integration of community health resources on the local level, and cultural competency training for medical staff who serve diverse, multicultural communities will be key elements of the CHS Community Outreach Network.

National health systems such as Carondelet, with unique expertise in reaching out to the uninsured and under-served, can play a highly beneficial role as collaborative partners with the federal government in developing models for community health access that can be replicated by others in health care community. As the Department of Health and Human Services develops its budget and Congress sets its spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2001, I would hope that attention will be paid and resources will be allocated to pilots and demonstrations that support current Administration goals to increase access to community health services. This is imperative in multi-cultural communities where language and other cultural differences present barriers to achieving community health objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. PORTER, and the Ranking Minority Member, Mr. OBEY, for their commitment to insuring that access to health care for all Americans is a fundamental and basic right.

I look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the upcoming session of Congress to find ways to increase support for critically needed minority health initiatives.

31305

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3194,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to address a most important issue for our nation's dairy farmers.

The federal milk marketing order program is the life-blood of dairy farmers throughout the nation and is a program that has long enjoyed strong, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I have been at the forefront of this dairy effort since the first day I came to this Congress and have worked hard with our bipartisan coalition from across the country to address this critical issue to the agricultural economy.

I want to explain that we are here today advancing dairy legislation because our dairy industry is in a crisis.

The Secretary of Agriculture calls the Administration's dairy reforms fair, yet it imposes hundreds of millions of dollars in losses in 45 states. This cannot be considered fair and I commend our leaders for responding to this crisis with a common sense compromise.

Dairy reform was not meant to be dairy income reduction. This package today restores what has been taken out of the pockets of dairy farmers throughout the country.

Do not forget that 285 members of this body, Republicans and Democrats, voted for the bulk of this dairy legislation—H.R. 1402—in September of this year.

The agreement also extends the life of the current New England Compact, which has proven over the past few years to be an effective model for providing much-needed stability to the dairy farmers.

This agreement affirms the idea that we should be supporting our states in their efforts to assist their agricultural economies.

Contrary to some of the rhetoric we've heard, this dairy package does not turn dairy reform on its head and nor does it bring the end to the dairy industry in the Upper Midwest, or anywhere else for that matter.

Keep in mind that the Upper Midwest receives some of the highest on-farm milk prices in the entire country.

With this legislation, dairy reforms will be implemented as intended in the Farm Bill—the number of marketing orders are consolidated and much-needed reforms are being made to the basic formula price and other pricing issues are improved.

However, today's legislation will ensure that regions are treated fairly and that farm income is not slashed as a result of the reforms.

Mr. Speaker, our agencies must be responsive to Congress and our constituents in implementing our federal policies. The Clinton Administration has failed on both counts in its pursuit of dairy reforms.

I again want to thank our leaders in the House and the Senate and our strong, bipartisan coalition that has remained determined